A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE ENGLISH NATION.

Thursday, April 25. 1706.

OUR last *Review*, open'd a new Scene I had brought our Malecontent Party to, the *Crisis* of their Expectation, the meeting of the Parliament; I had a little recounted their Virulent Proceeding, and loads of Scandal they had thrown on the Government, Ministry, Dissenters, Low-Churchmen, and all that Oppos'd them; and at last on the Queen her self.

But see how the Queen defends her self, and mark the entire Defeat of the whole Project.

In Her Majesty's Speech to both Houses, at the opening the Session, *October* 23. These are the Words.

I cannot but with Grief observe, there are some amongst Us, who endeavour to foment Animosities, but I perswade My Self, they will be found to be very few, when you appear to assist Me, in Discountenancing and Defeating such Practices.

I mention this with a little more Warmth, because there have not been wanting some so very Malicious, as even in Print, to suggest the Church of England, *as by Law Establish'd, to be in Danger at this time.*

I am willing to hope, not one of my Subjects can really entertain a doubt of my Affection to the Church, or so much as suspect, that it will not be my chief Care to support it, and leave it secure after Me, and therefore We may be certain, that they who go about to Insinuate things of this Nature, must be Mine and the Kingdoms Enemies, and can only mean to cover Designs, which they dare not publickly own, by endeavouring to distract Us with unreasonable and groundless Distrusts and Jealousies.

I must be so plain as to tell you, the best Proofs We can all give as presens of Our Zeal for the Preservation of the Church, will be to join heartily in Prosecuting the War against an Enemy, who is certainly engag'd to Extirpate our Religion, as well as to Reduce this Kingdom to Slavery.

I am fully resolv'd, by God's Assistance, to do My Part.

I will always affectionately Support and Countenance the Church of England, *as by Law Established.*

I will Inviolably Maintain the Toleration.

I will do all I can to prevail with my Subjects to lay aside their Divisions, and will study to make them all Safe and Easie

I will endeavour to promote Religion and Virtue amongst them, and to encourage Trade, and every thing else, that may make them a Flourishing and Happy People.

And they, who shall concur Zealously with Me in Carrying on these good Designs, shall be sure to find my Kindness and Favour.

I am not going to make Comments upon this Speech, it needs none of my Explication, 'twas spoken to the Apprehension of the whole Nation; never Speech from the Throne Inspir'd a Nation with more Joy, never was Party so Cow'd, so dash'd, so Discourag'd and Confounded, as the High Gentlemen of the Church appear'd upon this Speech; they were Asham'd to say they did not like it, more Asham'd to own they did not believe the Queen, and perfectly astonish'd at the Word INVIOLABLY MAINTAIN.

I need but refer to the Memory of these things for the present, and I cannot be detected here of any Mistake, since I may Appeal to the Gentlemen of all Parties, even the Persons themselves, if it was not a general Surprize to them.

If the Loss of the Speaker they would have Chosen, was some Shock to their hopes, this second blow perfectly Stupifi'd them, and they look'd upon one another as Men amaz'd.

But a third Tempest follow'd these Thunder-Claps, the effects of which, was what we have found since, to run the whole Party universally into Despair; and this was the Resolution of the Lords upon the Queen's Speech, drawn up into an Address, wherein we find these Terrible Clauses, *viz.*

"That the Church of *England* being re-
" scued from Danger, by the Late Glorious
" King *William*, &c. was by the Blessing
" of God, under Her Majesty's Govern-
" ment, in a Safe and Flourishing Condi-
" tion; and whosoever should by Word or
" Writing Insinuate, that the Church was
" in Danger, &c was an Enemy to the
" Queen, the Church, and the Peace of
" the Kingdom.

One would think, there was no possible Mortification left for these Unhappy People, when behold a yet farther Blow upon them, which they could no more have fear'd, than we could have hop'd for, *viz.* the Lords at a Conference, desire the Commons to join in this Address which they concur in; and it is presented by both Houses, with a Unanimity as Terrible to the Enemy as the Battle of *Blenheim*, and for ought I know, the effect of it was as considerable, especially to these Nations.

And now, Gentlemen, you that have been a little uneasy at my Reviewing the State of things, you may see the true End and Design of this Recapitulation, That the present Circumstances of the Party may be fairly deduc'd from the precedent Causes, and the Chain of things may be seen in their compleat Order.

I confess I do not wonder, that this Complication of Disapointments, made the Party quite disorder'd, and that Ravings and all sorts of Indecencies follow'd; there was no need now, that these Gentlemen should be Hang'd *for Tinking*, as the *Frenchman* call'd it, for their Tongues felt no Restraint, they Launch'd out into all manner of Excesses, and the Liberties they have taken in the Pulpit, from the Press, and in Discourse with every Branch in the Government, and all the Persons concern'd, would fill a Volume with Scandal, and be Nauseous to Posterity.

In

In these *Vulcano's* of Spleen, we have Belchings of all sorts and degrees, and differing Designs, but aiming at the same United End, appear in them all, of the Railing part, the whole Nation is full, and the Instances too many to Repeat; but I cannot omit a new Method, which I have a particular Letter out of the Country, of a certain Sign lately Erected, Call'd the Emblem, where a Church is Represenred, with some Priests hard at Work to Undermine it; I think there are Ropes fasten'd to the top to pull it down, but I am not certain of that; then there are some Church of *England* Men, distinguish'd by their Habits, endeavouring to support and uphold it; but these are Attack'd from another Quarter by the *Presbyterians*, who pull them away from their Office of Upholding the Church, that the Popish Priests may go on with their Work of digging up its Foundations.

If any Gentlemen Question the Truth of this Story, I have it under the Hand of such a Person, as I hope will be allow'd a sufficient Voucher, and shall not scruple to Name the Place, where this Worthy Emblem is Represented.

Thus the Gentlemen discover their Temper, and we are now coming to the Foreign way of Lampooning by Pictures — Their *Oxford* Almanack is of another kind, and sufficient Comments having been made upon it; I cannot but recommend it to those Emblematick Gentlemen, to Explain it themselves.

We are told also of a certain Foreign Author, and promoter of this good Cause, for whom large Subscriptions are now forming to Encourage more Invectives against the Government; I would Caution some Gentlemen at *Oxford*, that if any Collection towards such a thing be made at their *Great Cock Match*; they would endeavour to keep it a little private, for really such things may move People, to make Ill Constructions, to the Disadvantage of the University.

To which of their Foolish Efforts shall we next apply ourselves; their new Convert Mr. *Stephens* has own'd his Mistake, and acknowledges himself Seduc'd to fly in the Face of a Consummate Merit, *by hearkning to those, who made it their Business to give ill turns to everything*; 'tis Modestly express'd, and that Unfortunate Gentleman, who has Wrote after this Unhappy Copy, sees now that their Business in giving Ill Turns to the Publick Affairs, is only to traduce the Government, and fill the Minds of Men with Prejudices, as those very People, who they cannot but own, do Service to their Country, tho' not in a way that suits with their Wishes.

After these Vain Attempts at Home, you come to another Influence equally Meriting our Pity and Contempt, as the other being the Copy of the former Project, of drawing in some Gentleman, who, however Discontent as to their own particular, yet really do not favour their Party; but these are drawn in as Officious and easie Instruments, to do that Drudgery they cannot perform, without the Mask of such an Agent, as in general Acceptation passed for another Man.

If the Publishing a Letter of the Princess *Sophia*, to the Arch Bishop of *Canterbury*, be what I call an Artifice of these People, to draw in a Gentleman to be an Assistant to their Interest, who really never design'd their Service; I cannot but pity the Gentleman, tho' at the same time I think the Action most Unaccountable.

And because I have hitherto been Silent in these Affairs, I shall only make one Remark in my next, upon the Printing that Letter, which I would be glad to see clear'd up, to the Reputation of the Gentlemen that Publish'd it; and which if it cannot, I leave the rest to be defended as they can.

As to the Substance, I mean the Heirs of the Crown, being Invited hither at this time; I have already given my Opinion, the Government and the Illustrious Persons concerned, appear satisfied in the same Reasons, the thing is at an End; there is a

Noble

Noble Person, and capable States-Man gone over, who no Question will settle all that Matter, to the Mutual Satisfaction of all Parties, and in whose Conduct, *England* is sure not to be Betray'd.

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